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Agenda item 85 (c)
Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Qatar,* Japan, Mexico: draft resolution

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 57/256 of 20 December 2002 and 58/214 of 23 December 2003 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001,

Reiterating that, although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development,

Recognizing the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, especially in developing countries, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to tackle natural disasters effectively,

Expressing its deep concern at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries,

Emphasizing that disaster reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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Stressing the importance of advancing the implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[1] in particular on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the ongoing preparatory process for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, which is to be held in Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the generous pledge made by the Government of Japan to cover costs of the World Conference, and invites the international community to make voluntary contributions to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in that event;

4. *Reiterates* its invitation to Member States, all United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental agencies and organizations, in particular the members of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to participate actively in the World Conference;

5. *Encourages* major groups, as identified in the Agenda 21,[3] to contribute further to and actively participate in the World Conference, according to the rules of procedure agreed upon by its Preparatory Committee;

6. *Stresses* the importance of identifying, assessing and managing risks prior to the occurrence of disasters, for which it is necessary to combine the efforts at all levels of the development, humanitarian, scientific and environmental communities, as well as the importance of integrating disaster reduction into development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

7. *Stresses also* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities through, inter alia, the transfer and exchange of experiences and technical knowledge, access to relevant data and information and the strengthening of institutional arrangements, including community-based organizations;

8. *Calls upon* Governments to establish national platforms or focal points for disaster reduction and to strengthen them where they already exist, urges the United Nations system to provide appropriate support for those mechanisms, and invites the Secretary-General to strengthen the regional outreach of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy in order to ensure such support;

9. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, in his capacity as Chair of the Inter-agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to review annually the work carried out by its working groups in order to ensure their effective contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the Strategy;

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[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[2] A/59/228.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

10. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the Strategy by making voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

11. *Encourages* the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to the Trust Fund for the Strategy and to provide the necessary scientific, technical, human and other resources to ensure adequate support for the activities of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and its working groups;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate adequate financial and administrative resources, within existing resources, for the effective functioning of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the outcome of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, under the item entitled "Sustainable development".